

# Constitution Day and Citizenship Day

## Websites and Activities

An addition to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005, Public Law 108–447, signed into law on December 8, 2004, requires that September 17 be designated as Constitution Day and Citizenship Day. All educational institutions receiving federal funding are required to hold an educational program pertaining to the United States Constitution on September 17 of each year. If this date falls on a weekend or a holiday, schools must schedule a program immediately before or after that date.

**Public Law 108–447, 118 Stat. 2809, 3344–45, Division J, Section 111 (b)**

*“each educational institution that receives Federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution.”*

In order to assist with the implementation of this requirement, a list of Web-based resources is being made available for the use of Arizona teachers. The following websites offer a wide variety of lessons and resources for K-12 teachers to commemorate Constitution Day and Citizenship Day in their classrooms. ***This list is not exhaustive nor is it meant as an endorsement of any particular site or product. It is hoped that this will provide some helpful information that may be of use to teachers.***

**The American Bar Association**

<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/conversations/constitution/home.html>

All

This site offers "Conversations on the Constitution", conversation starters and resources for discussions on the Constitution.

**Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education**

<http://www.lawforkids.org/lawdocs/constitution.cfm>

Elementary – Middle School

This site offers children a guide for understanding important documents of our country, including the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Teachers can also order *Pocket Guides to the Constitution*.

**The Avalon Project: Yale Law School**

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/usconst.htm>

Middle – High School

This site offers full text documents of American History, including the Constitution.

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## **The Bill of Rights Institute**

<http://www.BillofRightsInstitute.org/>

Middle – High School

This site offers two Constitution Day lesson plans, one for middle school and one for high school. It also offers a biographical essay and lesson about James Madison, a lesson on and images of the Founders, and a lesson on the First Amendment.

## **The Center for Civic Education**

<http://www.civiced.org/news/external/LessonsConstitutionDay.htm>

All

This site offers lessons for Constitution Day for use at all grade levels.

## **The Constitutional Rights Foundation**

[http://www.crf-usa.org/Foundation\\_docs/Foundation\\_home.html](http://www.crf-usa.org/Foundation_docs/Foundation_home.html)

Middle - High School

This site offers a series of free online lessons about the founding documents of our Constitution.

## **Digital History**

<http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/historyonline/handouts.cfm>

High School

This site offers classroom tested handouts and fact sheets on ratifying the Constitution and the Federalists.

## **The Dirksen Congressional Center**

[http://www.congresslink.org/print\\_lp\\_contents.htm#constitution](http://www.congresslink.org/print_lp_contents.htm#constitution)

High School

This site offers four lessons about the Constitution.

## **The Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History**

<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/teachers/modules.html>

High School

This site offers a teaching module on the Constitution.

## **Justice Learning**

<http://www.justicelearning.org/constitutionday/index.asp>

Middle – High School

This site offers two free programs on DVD/CD and via the web: “Conversations with Supreme Court Justices” and “Justice Talking”, a debate. Materials and curricula that complement the programs will be available on the website.

## **The Library of Congress**

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/theme.html>

High School

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This site offers lessons on the Constitution.

## **The National Archives**

<http://www.archives.gov/national-archives-experience/charters/constitution.html>

All

This site offers images and transcripts of the Constitution as well as links to the Amendments, an article on the Constitutional Convention and questions and answers pertaining to the Constitution.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/index.html>

Middle – High School

The National Archives also shares information to use with Constitution Day, including links to information about each of the 39 signers and a simulation of the Constitutional Convention

## **National Constitution Center**

<http://www.constitutionday.us/>

Middle – High School

This site provides background on Constitution Day and links to many resources including an Interactive Constitution and two tool kits for activities designed to fulfill the requirements of the new law.

## **The U. S. Constitution Online**

<http://www.usconstitution.net/index.html>

All

This site is an excellent resource for teachers of all grades.

## **The White House**

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/constitution/>

Elementary

This site contains links to Constitution facts, quizzes, and other resources for children.

For further information, contact:

Carol Warren, M.Ed., M.A.

Education Program Specialist – Social Studies

1535 W. Jefferson St. Bin #5

Phoenix, AZ 85007

[Carol.Warren@azed.gov](mailto:Carol.Warren@azed.gov)

Phone (602) 364-4030

FAX (602) 364-0902